

I have been a Amateur Radio Operator for 36 years and a FISTS member for 6 years. I enjoy CW/Morse code operation on the HF bands and support this FISTS proposal fully. I think I would further suggest that all technicians be granted CW priveleges as well as digital priveleges in the Novice sub bands. I think this would provide the greatest incentive to upgrade for full priveleges. After all, that is the reason for the creation of the Novice CW sub bands in the first place, to encourage proficiency through practice. Listening only just can't provide that initial terror of your first contact, nor the great pride that follows knowing that you can accomplished what seemed insurmountable.

There is still a place in amateur radio for morse code. It is still the most efficient mode. I love QRP operation. I still am astounded to work stations around the world on 5 watts. Please don't dumb down the liscensing just so the Japanese can sell more pretty boxes.

Thanks.

Joe Riggs